POLYSULFONE COMPOSITIONS EXHIBITING VERY LOW COLOR AND HIGH LIGHT TRANSMITTANCE PROPERTIES AND ARTICLES MADE THEREFROM

CROSS REFERENCE TO PROVISIONAL APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application Serial Nos. 60/372,078; filed April 15, 2002; and 60/452,961; filed March 10, 2003, the entire disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention is directed to a polysulfone composition with low yellowness index and high light transmittance and articles made from the polysulfone composition, such as ophthalmic lenses.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Sulfone polymers are high performance amorphous thermoplastic engineering resins that contain the characteristic diaryl sulfone linkage. Sulfone polymers are known for their high mechanical strength, thermal and oxidative resistance, resistance to hydrolysis, and to many acids, bases, and solvents.

Polysulfone is a well-known high temperature amorphous engineering thermoplastic resin. It exhibits a high glass transition temperature of about 185 °C, high strength, stiffness and toughness over a temperature range from about -100 to 150 °C. Being completely amorphous, the polymer also exhibits transparency, which adds to its utility in many end uses. Polysulfone was commercially introduced in 1965 by the Union Carbide Corporation. It has the chemical structure: